



03500.017646

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Naoki MATSUMARU, et al. ) Examiner: Unassigned  
Application No.: 10/687,735 ) Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
Filed: October 20, 2003 )  
For: DEVELOPING APPARATUS ) December 5, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the patent documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of the listed patent documents are also enclosed.

FEE/STATEMENT

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of the application. Accordingly, Applicant submits that no Statement, Petition, or Fee is necessitated by the filing of this paper. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee necessitated by the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed for that purpose.

REMARKS

Japanese Patent Document No. 9-218578 is discussed at least at page 2, lines 11 through 22 of the specification. U.S. Patent No. 5,790,923 is identified as being in the family of Japanese Patent Document No. 9-218578.

Japanese Patent Document No. 9-325617 is discussed at least at page 13, lines 17 through 25 of the specification.

U.S. Patent No. 6,205,304 B1 is identified as being in the patent family of Japanese Patent Document No. 2000-131926.

U.S. Patent No. 6,606,469 B2 is identified as being in the patent family of Japanese Patent Document No. 2002-236419.

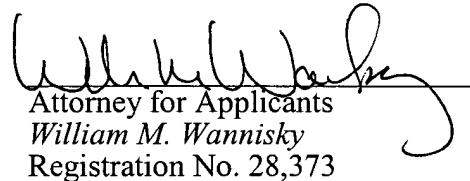
CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Favorable consideration hereof is earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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WMW\tas

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**03500.017646**APPLICATION NO.  
**10/687,735**

APPLICANT

**Naoki MATSUMARU, et al.**

FILING DATE

**October 20, 2003**

GROUP

**Unassigned**

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
<i>O I P E</i>	<i>st</i>	5,790,923	08/04/98	Oguma, et al.	399	106	
DEC 05 2003	<i>PTO</i>	6,205,304 B1	03/20/01	Kawaguchi	399	103	
	<i>PTO</i>	2002/0110383 A1	08/15/02	Kikuchi, et al.	399	103	
		6,606,469 B2	08/12/03	Kikuchi, et al.	399	104	

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		9-218578	08/19/97	Japan			Abstract
		9-325617	12/16/97	Japan			Abstract
		2000-131926	05/12/00	Japan			Abstract
		2001-350344	12/21/01	Japan			Abstract
		2002-236419	08/23/02	Japan			Abstract
		2002-268515	09/20/02	Japan			Abstract

## OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1

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